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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/716,718	11/19/2003	Richard C. Ferri	POU920030185US1	6317
7590	10/07/2004		EXAMINER	
Andrew J. Wojnicki, Jr. Intellectual Property Law IBM Corporation, MS P386 2455 South Road Poughkeepsie, NY 12601			MARSH, STEVEN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3632	
DATE MAILED: 10/07/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10/716,718	FERRI ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Steven M Marsh	3632	MW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 November 2003.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11192003.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is the first office action for U.S. Application 10/716,718 for a Supporting Adapter for Portable Computer system filed by Richard C. Ferri et al. on November 19, 2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 5-15, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,859,762 to Clark et al. Clark et al. discloses an adapter with a support plate (bottom of 24) that has a top surface and a bottom surface opposite the top surface. There is a connector provided from the bottom surface adapted to mount the support plate to a support stand (at 22) and a plurality of latches (38) provided from the top surface, operable to secure a portable computing device to the support plate. The latches can engage a keyhole in a bottom surface of a computing device and there is at least one pivot (52). The support plate has sidewalls (sides and back of 24, extending from the bottom) extending upwardly from the top surface that are dimensioned such that when the adapter is attached to a portable computing device, the sidewalls do not obstruct elements of the portable computing device normally available for use.

There is a plurality of interior electrical connectors and a plurality of exterior electrical connectors coupled to the interior electrical connectors, whereby the exterior electrical connectors are adapted to mate with a plurality of corresponding cables, thereby connecting the electrical connectors of the portable computing device to the corresponding cables. The adapter can also function as a port replicator or a docking station. There is also a connector (40) provided from the side surface that is adapted to removably mount the support plate to a cooperating support.

Claims 1-8 and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,740,995 to Richter. Richter discloses an adapter with a support plate (30) that has a top surface and a bottom surface opposite the top surface. There is a threaded stud (39) and threaded opening provided from the bottom surface, adapted to mount the support plate to a support stand, and a plurality of latches (18) provided from the top surface, operable to secure a portable computing device to the support plate. The latches can also engage a keyhole in a bottom surface of a computing device.

Claims 1-20 contain limitations to the structure of the portable computing device and the support stand. However, because neither is positively recited in the claims, the limitations to the structure of those devices have no patentable significance.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent 6,491,268 B1 to Channer et al.

U.S. Patent 5,673,628 to Boos

U.S. Patent 4,957,264 to Hakanen

U.S. Patent 6,382,580 B1 to Wisniewski

U.S. Patent 6,556,528 B1 to Kuang

U.S. Patent 6,351,376 B1 to Liang et al.

U.S. Patent 6,315,489 B1 to Watanabe

U.S. Patent 6,045,400 to Detter

U.S. Patent 6,042,068 to Tcherny

U.S. Patent 5,943,208 to Kato et al.

The above patents disclose various types of supporting brackets.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Steven Marsh whose telephone number is (703) 305-0098. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00AM to 4:30 PM. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone

number is (703) 308-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

S. Marsh
Steven M. Marsh

September 28, 2004

L.A. Braun
LESLIE A. BRAUN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER